

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker:	Cllr Terry Douris
Portfolio:	Planning & Regeneration
Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:	09/01/2013

Title of Decision:	Minor wording amendments to the 'main changes' to the Pre-Submission Core Strategy.
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Decision made and reasons:

Decision:

To agree some small wording changes to the schedule of 'main changes' agreed by Cabinet on 11th December, in order to:

- a) reflect feedback from the Planning Inspector on the proposed wording;
- b) ensure the final wording is put before Full Council on 16th January for consideration; and
- c) enable progression of the Core Strategy to adoption as quickly as possible.

Reasons:

The agreement of the Portfolio Holder is required in order to comply with the following recommendation from Cabinet:

"That Council be recommended to approve the list of main modifications to the Pre-Submission Core Strategy for submission to the Planning Inspector, and that authority be delegated to the Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to agree any changes to this wording required by the Planning Inspector."

Since 11th December Cabinet, the Council has received feedback from the Planning Inspector regarding the detailed wording of the main modifications. This has required a number of minor textual changes to the following main modifications.

In accordance with the Cabinet recommendation above, Full Council will be asked to agree these main modifications on 16th January 2013, before they are published for a 6 week period of public consultation. In order for Full Council to have the most up-to-date version of the main modifications before them, Portfolio Holder agreement is required to make these wording changes. This revised wording is attached as Appendix 1. The wording changes are minor in nature and do not affect the thrust of any Core Strategy policies. The changes (from Cabinet version to current version) are summarised as follows:

Main Modification Number	Policy / Para	Change made and reason
MM5	Policy CS7	Insertion of the words 'through the Site Allocations DPD', to clarify that there will be no general review of the Green Belt carried out as part of this Development Plan Document, which is due to reach Pre-Submission stage in summer 2013. This means that the Site

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD SHEET

		Allocations DPD will focus on delivering the number and distribution of new homes set out in the Core Strategy, rather than proposing any further significant Green Belt releases for housing at this stage. The comprehensive Green Belt Review will be commissioned separately in 2013 and will inform the early partial review of the Core Strategy.
MM10	Policy CS15	Inclusion of the first paragraph of the policy in order to provide the necessary context for the text that follows.
MM28	New sub-section in Section 29 relating to early partial review	Include additional sentence to state that 'Evidence gathering will begin in 2013,' in order to respond to the Inspector's request for clarity regarding when the early partial review will begin.

Reports considered: (here reference can be made to specific documents)

11th December Cabinet Report entitled 'The Annual Monitoring Report and Local Planning Framework Update.'

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

- Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regeneration
- Group Manager – Strategic Planning and Regeneration
- Rob Jameson – Partner, Atwaters Jameson and Hill Solicitors (independent legal adviser to the Council for Core Strategy Examination)

Monitoring Officer comments:

This decision does not constitute a "key decision" within the meaning of regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 and, therefore, the requirement to give 28 days prior notice does not apply.

Chief Financial Officer comments:

Implications: If the decision to agree these changes is not made, then the Council risks delaying the adoption of the Core Strategy and would be forced to accept main modification wording imposed by the Inspector.

Risk: A risk assessment has been carried out as part of the PID process. The Local Development Scheme (the 'project plan' for the whole of the Local Planning Framework) also contains its own risk

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD SHEET

assessment. The key concern is that the (new) development plan must be sound, and delivers what is needed expeditiously. Risk is reduced by ensuring processes and the evidence base are robust and that the plan is adopted as soon as possible. Certain elements of the process have explicit statutory requirements. This includes the need to consult on any 'main modifications' prior to receiving the final Inspector's Report and progressing towards adoption.

Financial:

There are no direct financial implications related to this Portfolio Holder Decision request: the main modifications consultation is a statutory process that must be undertaken. The issue is the precise wording of these main modifications and the timing of the resulting consultation. Funding for the Core Strategy is provided from the LDF reserve. A three year rolling budget requirement has provisionally been agreed with the Director of Finance and Governance for 2012/13, with projections for 2013/14 and 2014/15. The 2012/13 budget is currently being reviewed as part of the annual budget cycle. Progressing the final stages towards adoption of the Core Strategy as swiftly as possible will ensure additional costs are minimised and reduce potential delays in progressing work on subsequent Development Plan Documents.

Value for Money:

Every effort has been made to secure external funding for the wider Local Planning Framework programme of work i.e. through the New Homes Bonus. This will help reduce the impact on the Council's budget. Where possible, evidence base work is undertaken jointly with other authorities to ensure cost is optimised (through economies of scale). Collaborative working with landowner consultants will continue to help extend the resources available to the Council and avoid the duplication of site specific technical information.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:

Continue with existing main modification wording – rejected: MM5 and MM28 lack the clarity needed to explain the early partial review and could weaken the protection afforded to the Green Belt now. MM10 needs the additional clarification.

Portfolio Holders Signature:

Date:

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 08/01/2013

Date Decision Published: 09/01/2013

Decision No: PH/002/13

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 16/01/2013

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: